

THE MODERN RUSSIAN DRAMA.

The last number of the Edinburgh Review has an interesting article on the modern Russian drama, which gives not only a good idea of the subject immediately considered, but of Russian life as well.

The most popular of the living dramatists of Russia is Ostrovsky, who is scarcely known, even by name, outside of his own country.

"Succeeding almost all his time in Moscow, it is his wont to frequent the spots where these persons congregate, whose manners he delights to depict. Every likeness he draws has been carefully elaborated, feature by feature; every character he introduces is a study from the life; and the result is that, according to the universal testimony of his countrymen, his plays are thoroughly faithful transcripts of the Russian domestic life of the present day.

The article concludes with the criticism that the chief merit of the Russian plays is not found in the ingenuity of their plots. The writer says:—"They are, in fact, entirely devoid of original contrivances or startling situations. The story generally unfolds itself as the piece goes on, with a simplicity which is characteristic of a very tender age in art, somewhat resembling that which marks the dramatic productions of India or China."

There is very little composition in the pictures the artist exhibits which follow each other something after the fashion of panoramic illustrations. But as representations of Russian family life, they are not devoid of interest. They are, in fact, a very rich and fertile source of literature between Russia and Western Europe, which is sufficiently accounted for by the remote and exceptional character of the Russian language and by the peculiar habits of the people. Yet the writings of our own authors received in Russia with the heartiest recognition. Every book of note that creates a sensation here is at once reproduced there, and our leading novelists would be surprised if they knew how much of the fortunes of their heroes and heroines are followed by the thousands of Russian readers, not only in the two great capitals of the empire but in every town into which the chief magazines make their way.

From the waste of the Arctic circle to the shores of the Caspian and the mountains of the Caucasus, they like to see the vicissitudes and follies of their neighbors, even when the thought of the satirist reaches themselves. A race by no means thin-skinned, in whom conscience has been but little developed, but who are endowed with a large sense of humor, they take their moral censure kindly, acknowledge its justice frankly, and then go home straightway to recommence the habits from which it was intended to deter them. With one class only the dramatist is forbidden to meddle, and that is the class of the aristocracy, who are the only ones who are not to be touched by the pen of the satirist.

—The cabinet of London held an immense mass meeting last evening. —The coroner's inquest upon the remains of those burned to death on a Welsh railroad the other day, was held yesterday, and testimony taken. —Advices from Bokhara state that the Emir has made a treaty with the Russian commander, and the troops of the Czar have evacuated Samarkand. —Gold closed yesterday at 145. —Cape May season as brisk as ever. —The Baltimore Schutzenverein closed yesterday. —Hollenders are "emigrating" from Michigan to Wisconsin. —Major General Howard was in New Orleans Thursday, and leaves for Texas today. —William H. King, editor of the New Orleans Times, died on Thursday, after a lingering illness. —Five pall-bearers at Mrs. Commodore Vanderbilt's funeral represented a capital of \$250,000. —William Keith, son of the Hon. Alfred Keith, of Shelburne, Vermont, was drowned, Thursday, while fishing. —Indications are that most of the money recently stolen from the People's Bank, in Baltimore, will be recovered. —President Jackson denies that there have been any negotiations for the sale of Sonora and Sinaloa to the United States. —General Rosecrans having returned from White Sulphur Springs expects to leave Washington in a day or so for Ohio. —Joseph Eubly, long connected with the Western Union Telegraph Company, committed suicide yesterday at Louisville, Ky. —Robert Allen Packer, son of Hon. Asa Packer, was nominated for Congress by the Democracy assembled at Wilkesbarre, yesterday, ex-Chief Justice Woodward thus falling in a renomination.

NEWS SUMMARY.

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MARINE TELEGRAPH.

For additional Marine News see First Page.

ALMANAC FOR PHILADELPHIA—THIS DAY.

MOON SETS..... 7:51

MOON RISES..... 5:21

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NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Springfield Fire and Marine Ins. Co.,

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Yonkers and New York Insurance Co.,

NEW YORK

Atlantic Fire and Marine Insurance Co.,

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Guardian Fire Insurance Company,

NEW YORK

Lumberman's Fire Insurance Co.,

CHICAGO, ILL.

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